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Approved For Release 2000/08/07 : CIA-RDP79T00935A000400150008-7

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September 17, 1956

To: Assistant Director, OCR  
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Subject: Declassification of CIA/RR IM-438 dated 9 November 1956

In compliance with your memorandum of August 27, 1956, copies of CIA/RR IM-438 of November 9, 1956 were submitted to the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs and to the Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs, with a request for authorization to produce an unclassified version of this report, which has made use of several State Department despatches.

Quoted below are the comments of SEA and CA in the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs:

SEA

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"1. Laos. SEA has no objection to the publication of the CIA report in unclassified form provided that the citations of the

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"2. Singapore. No objection is perceived to the use of the material in CIA/RR IM-438 or in Singapore's despatch No. 406 of March 2, 1956 in an unclassified version of the report in question,

[REDACTED]

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"3. Thailand. No objection is perceived to unclassified use of information included in CIA/RR IM-438 from the following State Department communications:

D-109, Bangkok, August 26, 1955  
D-570, Bangkok, April 23, 1956  
D-773, Bangkok, June 30, 1954  
D-31, Chiangmai, April 9, 1956  
D-43, Chiangmai, June 30, 1954  
D-559, Bangkok, June 9, 1955

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"4. Vietnam. No objection is perceived to the use of the material in CIA/RM IM-438 in an unclassified version of the report in question provided that no reference is made by statement or implication to individuals or organizations in Vietnam who were sources of information."

CA

"Our only comment on this report, which has made heavy use of Foreign Service despatches and appears to be thoroughly documented and carefully compiled, is that the last paragraph in the summary is likely to give a hasty reader the impression that the opium trade is not illicit; viz: "there appears, therefore, to be production in the Free World of opium which is more than adequate to meet the demands of the two great opium-consuming areas--the Near East and Southeast Asia . . ."

The Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs does not feel that it can approve the publication of an unclassified version until it has had an opportunity to examine it. It is accordingly suggested that the unclassified version be submitted to the Department, and we shall endeavor to obtain clearances from the Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs and from the Office of Security.

Steven D. Zagorski  
Chief  
CIA Liaison Branch  
Division of Intelligence  
Collection and Distribution

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